

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claim 9 has been amended to address the alleged informality. Claims 2, 3, 8, and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Claims 1, 4-7, and 10-11 are pending for further consideration.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102, Claim 1 has been amended to set forth certain distinctive features of the invention more precisely. For example, Claim 1 recites a die pad supported by a plurality of suspension leads, wherein one end of each of the plurality of suspension leads is branched in a vicinity of a corner of the resin sealing member, branched portions of said one end are exposed to side faces of a resin sealing member, and each branched portion has an upper surface, a lower surface, and side faces covered by the resin sealing member.

Neither of the cited Minamio references teaches or suggests the aforementioned feature of Claim 1. While it appears that Kusano (applied to dependent Claims 2, 4, and 7) may teach branched suspension leads, Kusano is not seen to teach or suggest the unique feature of covering the upper surface, lower surface and side faces of the branched

portion of the suspension leads with the resin sealing member, as particularly set forth in Claim 1. Thus, the cited references taken individually or in combination do not teach or suggest the invention of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1, and its dependents, distinguish patentably from the cited references and should be allowed.

This application is now in condition for allowance and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

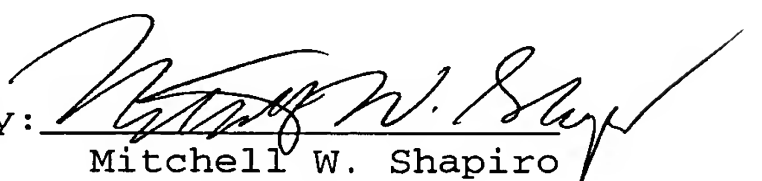
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:swa

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